



47500

98-4775

OST-98-4775-2

5861 Rivers Ave., Suite 222 . North Charleston, SC 29406

November 21, 1998

The Honorable Senator Hollings  
United States Senate  
Washington, S.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hollings,

I am writing this letter to you as a constituents of yours and an owner of a travel agency

The recent decision of major U.S. Airlines to cap commissions at \$100.00 on international airfares is just one more step in the airlines all-out assault to drive the travel agent from the marketplace.

By forcing us from the marketplace, consumers will have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through 800 numbers and the Internet. This will ultimately result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets. This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20" television program which clearly illustrated that when you removed the travel agency from the scene, the airlines can over charge the consumer at will.

I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to force the traveling public to deal directly with them through their 800 numbers and the Internet. The airlines do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on airfares readily available to them. We, the travel agents, are the only ones who provide the consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule information today.

The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the fires of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with its fortress hub system and controls over the computer reservations systems. Please write the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General asking them to take the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of airlines from harming the travel consumer.

Sincerely,

Beth Sanbom  
President

/bs

cc: The Honorable Janet Reno, Atty. General  
The Honorable Rodney Slater, Sec. of Transportation

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
98 DEC -2 PM 4:23  
DOCKET SECTION



# St. Charles Travel, Inc.

98-4775  
Ask us,  
We've been there!

November 23, 1998

The Honorable Dennis J. Hastert  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
98 DEC - 2 PM 4: 23  
DOCKET SECTION

Dear Representative Hastert,

I am writing this letter to you as a constituent of yours and an owner of a travel agency.

The recent decision of major U.S. airlines to cap commissions at \$100.00 on international airfares is just one more step in the airlines all-out assault to drive the travel agent form the marketplace. By forcing us from the marketplace, consumers will have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through 800 numbers and the Internet. This will ultimately result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets. This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20" television program which clearly illustrated that when you removed the travel agency from the scene, the airlines can over charge the consumer at will.

I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to force the traveling public to deal directly with them through their 800 numbers and the Internet. The airlines do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on airfares readily available to them. We, the travel agents, are the only ones who provide the consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule information today.

The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the fires of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with its fortress hub system and controls over the computer reservation systems. Please write the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General asking them to take the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of airlines from harming the travel consumer.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Chase  
Owner/St. Charles Travel Inc.



**ACTION**  
is assigned to  
  
S-10

98-4775

November 20, 1998

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

I am writing this letter to you as a constituent of yours and an owner of a travel agency.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
98DEC -2 PM 4:23  
DOCKET SECTION

The recent decision of major U.S. airlines to cap commissions at \$100.00 on international airfares is just one more step in the airlines all-out assault to drive the travel agent from the marketplace. By forcing us from the marketplace, consumers will have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through 800 numbers and the Internet. This will ultimately result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets. This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20" television program which clearly illustrated that when you removed the travel agency from the scene, the airlines can over charge the consumer at will.

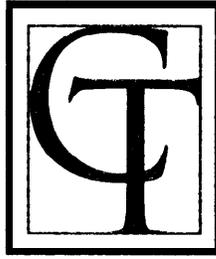
I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to force the traveling public to deal directly with them through their 800 numbers and the Internet. The airlines do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on airfares readily available to them. We, the travel agents, are the only ones who provide the consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule information today.

The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the fires of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with its fortress hub system and controls over the computer reservation systems. Please write the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General asking them to take the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of airlines from harming the travel consumer.

Sincerely,

Fatima Medina  
Owner/Manager

ab



**CUSTOM TRAVEL  
INCORPORATED**

98-4775-

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
98DEC -2 PM 4:23  
DOCKET SECTION

November 24, 1998

The Honorable Rodney Slater  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Slater:

I am writing this letter to you as a constituent of yours and an owner of a travel agency.

The recent decision of major U.S. airlines to cap commission at \$100 on international airfares is just one more step in the airlines all-out assault to drive the travel agent from the marketplace. By forcing us from the marketplace, consumers will have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through 800 numbers and the Internet. This will ultimately result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets. This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20" television program which clearly illustrated that when you removed the travel agency from the scene, the airlines can over charge the consumer at will.

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The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the fire of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with its fortress hub system and controls over the computer reservation systems. Please write the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General asking them to take the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of airlines from harming the travel consumer.

Sincerely,

Gloria L. Monsey, CTC  
President/Owner

98-4775-

**Via WAY E TRAVEL & CRUISES**

November 24, 1998

The Honorable Paul Sarbanes  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 205 10

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
98 DEC -2 PM 4: 23  
DOCKET SECTION

Dear Senator **Sarbanes**:

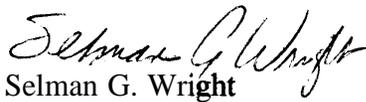
I am writing this letter to you as a constituent of yours and an owner of a travel agency.

The recent decision of major U.S. airlines to cap commissions at \$100 on international airfares is just one more step in the airlines all-out assault to drive the travel agent from the marketplace. By forcing us from the marketplace, consumers will have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through 800 numbers and the Internet. This will ultimately result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets. This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20" television program which clearly illustrated that when you removed the travel agency from the scene, the airlines can over charge the consumer at will.

I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to force the traveling public to deal directly with them through their 800 numbers and the Internet. The airlines do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on airfares readily available to them. We, the travel agents, are the only ones who provide the consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule information today.

The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the fires of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with its fortress hub system and controls over the computer reservation systems. Please write the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General asking them to take the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of airlines from harming the travel consumer.

Sincerely ,

  
Selman G. Wright

cc: The Honorable Janet Reno  
The Honorable Rodney Slater

*Notre Dame*  
**TRAVEL**

98-4775

(3 14) 638-7763  
(800) 76 1-7773

336 East Ripa Avenue  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63 125-2836 ,

FAX: (3 14) 638-7773  
E-mail: notredametravel @fastrans.net

November 23, 1998

The Honorable John Ashcroft  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Ashcroft:

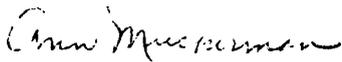
I am writing this letter to you a constituent of yours and an owner/manager of a travel agency.

The recent decision of major U.S. airlines to cap commissions at \$100 on international airfares is just one more step in the airlines all-out assault to drive the travel agent from the marketplace. By forcing us from the marketplace, consumers will have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through 800 numbers and the Internet. This will ultimately result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets. This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20" television program which clearly illustrated that when you removed the travel agency from the scene, the airlines can over charge the consumer at will.

I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to force the traveling public to deal directly with them through their 800 numbers and the Internet. The airlines do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on airfares readily available to them. We, the travel agents, are the only ones who provide the consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule information today.

The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the fires of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with its fortress hub system and controls over the computer reservation systems. Please write the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General asking them to take the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of airlines from harming the travel consumer.

Sincerely,



Ann Muckerman, SSND, Ed.D.  
Manager, Notre Dame Travel

cc. The Honorable Rodney Slater

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
98 DEC - 2 PM 4: 23  
DOCKET SECTION

# Travel Shoppe



98-4775

November 23, 1998

The Honorable Rodney Slater  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 205 15

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
98 DEC -2 PM 4: 23  
DOCKET SECTION

Dear Representative Slater,

I am writing this letter to you as a constituent of yours and an owner of a travel agency.

The recent decision of major U.S. airlines to cap commissions at \$100 on international airfares is just one more step in the airlines all-out assault to drive the travel agent from the marketplace. By forcing us from the marketplace, consumers will have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through 800 numbers and the Internet. This will ultimately result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets. This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20" television program which clearly illustrated that when you removed the travel agency from the scene, the airlines can over charge the consumer at will.

I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to force the traveling public to deal directly with them through their 800 numbers and the Internet. The airlines do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on airfares readily available to them. We, the travel agents, are the only ones who provide the consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule information today.

The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the fire of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with its fortress hub system and controls over the computer reservation systems. We would appreciate your action in taking the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of airlines from harming the travel consumer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cheri Verrastro".

Cheri Verrastro  
President

98-4778

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
98 DEC -2 PM 4: 23  
DOCKET SECTION

November 23, 1998

The Honorable John Kerry  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

I am writing this letter to you as a constituent of yours and an owner of a travel agency in Massachusetts. The recent decision of major U.S. airlines to cap commissions at \$100 on international airfares is just one more step in the airlines all-out assault to drive the travel agent **from** the marketplace. I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to force the traveling public to deal directly with them through their 800 numbers and the Internet.

Discouraging consumers **from** using travel agents will ultimately lead them into a wasteland of ignorance. With the source of comparative fare information removed **from** the picture, the public will not be able to get and evaluate all the options by calling the airlines directly. In February 1998, ABC's "20/20" program more than once proved travel agents regularly provide consumers with lower fares than if the consumers contacted the airlines directly.

The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the fires of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with its fortress hub system and controls over the computer reservation systems. Please write the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General & king them to take the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of airlines **from** harming the travel consumer, as well as putting another small business out of business.

Sincerely,



Mary M. Dutra  
President

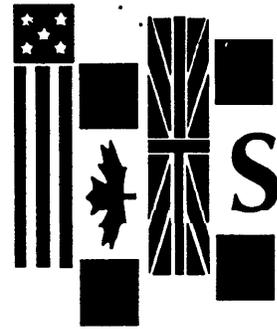
djm

**Four Seasons  
travel service inc.**



COPY

98-4775



# SUBURBAN TRAVEL

November 23, 1998

919 WEST UNIVERSITY DRIVE  
ROCHESTER, MICHIGAN 48307

LEISURE TRAVEL

(248) 651-7762

BUSINESS TRAVEL

(248) 651-8878

DOCKETS SECTION

98 DEC - 2 PM 4:23

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Honorable Carl Levin  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Levin;

I am writing to you as a constituent of yours and an owner of a travel agency.

The recent decision of major U.S. airlines to cap commissions at \$100 on international airfares is just one more step in the airlines all-out assault to drive the travel agent from the marketplace. By forcing us from the marketplace, consumers will have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through 800 numbers and the Internet. This will ultimately result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets. This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20" television program which clearly illustrated that when you removed the travel agency from the scene, the airlines can over charge the consumer at will.

I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to force the traveling public to deal directly with them through their 800 numbers and the Internet. The airlines do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on airfares readily available to them. We, the travel agents, are the only ones who provide the consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule information today.

The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the fires of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with its fortress hub system and controls over the computer reservation systems. Please write the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General asking them to take the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of airlines from harming the travel consumer.

Sincerely,

Dean Markwardt  
President





TRAVEL SERVICE, INC.  
 CORPORATE OFFICE  
 5931 South 87th E. Ave.  
 Tulsa, OK 74145

98-4775



November 23, 1998

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 98 DEC -2 PM 4: 23  
 DOCKET SECTION

The Honorable Don Nickles, R-OK  
 United States Senate  
 133 Hart Senate Office Building  
 Washington, DC 205 10

Dear Senator Nickles,

I am writing this letter to you as a constituent of yours and an owner of a travel agency.

The recent decision of major U.S. airlines to cap commissions at \$100.00 on international airfares is just one more step in the airlines all out assault to drive the travel agent from the marketplace. By forcing us from the marketplace, consumers will have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through 800 numbers and the Internet. This will ultimately result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets. This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20 television program which clearly illustrated that when you removed the travel agency from the scene, the airlines can over charge the consumer at will.

I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to force the traveling public to deal directly with them through their 800 numbers and the Internet. The airlines do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on airfares readily available to them. We, the travel agents, are the only ones who provide the consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule information today.

The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the fires of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with its fortress hub system and controls over the computer reservation systems. Please write the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General asking them to take the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of airlines from harming the travel consumer.

Sincerely,

Bobbie R. Needham, President  
 Travel Service, Inc.  
 5931 S. 87th Street East  
 Tulsa, OK74145

98-4775-



1750 Rockville Pike, Suite 18 / Rockville, Maryland 20852

301-230-2111 / 800-441-6114 / Fax 301-230-2119 / TTY 301-230-2720

November 23, 1998

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
98 DEC -2 PM 4:24  
DOCKET SECTION

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
United States Senate  
709 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC. 20510

Dear Senator Mikulski,

I am writing this letter to you as a constituent, (and someone who has consistently voted for you). I am also the owner of a women owned, operated and staffed travel agency.

Yet again, the recent decision of major U.S. Airlines to cap commissions at \$100 on international airfares is just one more step in the airlines all-out assault to drive the travel agent from the marketplace. It appears that their lobby is so strong, that no one has willing to even attempt to put any controls in place to regulate their monopoly. By forcing us from the marketplace, consumers will have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through either their reservation centers, or the Internet. This will ultimately result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets.

This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20" television program which clearly illustrated that when you remove the travel agency from the picture, the airlines can overcharge the consumer at will. I find it most interesting that the airlines claim they need to cut our pay in order to cut costs, but they continue to bombard the public with offers of "free tickets" and extra frequent flyer miles, if they book directly with the airline. Surely a free ticket must cost more than the average commission paid a travel agent for one ticket.

I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to force the traveling public to deal directly with them. The airlines do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on airfares readily available to them. We, the travel agents, are the only ones who provide the consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule information today.

The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the fires of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with its fortress hub system and controls over the computer reservation systems.



1750 Rockville Pike, Suite 18 / Rockville, Maryland 20852

301-230-2 111 / 800-44 1-61 14 / Fax 301-230-2 119 / TTY 30 1-230-2720

**Please ask the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General to take the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of the airlines from harming the travel consumer.**

**Sincerely,**

**Linda Lachowicz  
Owner**

**cc: The Honorable Janet Reno  
Attorney General**

**The Honorable Rodney Slater  
Secretary of Transportation**

D. 98-4775  
CORRES



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

98 DEC - 3 PM 4: 35

DOCKET SECTION

November 19, 1998

COPY

The Honorable Bob Graham  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Graham:

I am writing this letter to you as a constituent of yours and an owner of a travel agency.

The recent decision of United Airlines, followed by Delta and American, to cap commissions at \$100 on international airfares is just one more step in the airlines all-out assault to drive the travel agent from the marketplace. By forcing us from the marketplace, consumers will have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through 800 numbers and the Internet. This will ultimately result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets. This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20" television program which clearly illustrated that when you removed the travel agency from the scene, the airlines can over charge the consumer at will.

I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to force the traveling public to deal directly with them through their 800 numbers and the Internet. The airlines do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on airfares readily available to them. We, the travel agents, are the only ones who provide the consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule information today.

The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the fires of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with its fortress hub system and controls over the computer reservations systems. Please write the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General asking them to take the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of airlines from harming the travel consumer.

Sincerely,

Andrew H. Fisher  
**SOUND TRAVEL** - Owner



# A-I Tuscany Travel

40485 Murrieta Hot Springs Rd., B-3  
Murrieta, California 92563  
(909) 677-4856

D. 98-4775  
COMB

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
98 DEC -2 PM 4:35  
DOCKET SECTION

Nov 20, 1998

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein;

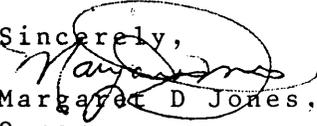
I am writing this letter to you as a constituent of yours and an owner of a travel agency.

The recent decision of major U.S. Airlines to cap commissions at \$100.00 on international airfares is just one more step in the airlines all out assault to drive the travel agent from the marketplace. By forcing us from the marketplace consumers will have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through 800 numbers and the Internet. This will ultimately result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets. This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20" television program which clearly illustrated that when you removed the travel agency from the scene the airlines can over charge the consumer at will.

I am deeply concerned about the airlines and what they are doing to force the travelling public to deal directly with them through THEIR 800 Numbers AND THE Internet. The airlines do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on airfares readily available to them. We, the travel agents, are the only ones who provide the consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fares and schedule information today.

The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the fire of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace; with its fortress hub system and controls over the computer reservation systems. Please write the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General asking them to take the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practice of airlines from harming the travel consumer.

Sincerely,

  
Margaret D Jones, CTC  
Owner

cc. Honorable Banet Reno  
Honorable Rodney Slater  
ASTA Headquarters